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NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

Volume 10 - Number 1
February 1960
Cumulative No. 44

APR 30 '66

LITTLE BEAR SWAMP IN NEW YORK

A northern outpost of Rose Bay (Rhododendron maximum) in Albany Co., N. Y. is going to be preserved if the Eastern New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is successful in fund raising efforts. The initial goal is $5,000--this must be raised by May 23, 1960, the date a purchase option for this 80 acres expires, if this northern relict natural area is to be preserved.

A wide variety of swamp flora is found here but most spectacular is the dominant understory of rhododendron. The habitat supports breeding population of such northern birds as Canada and black-throated blue warblers, the veery and vireos, and in the bordering fields, the swamp, henslows, vesper and field sparrows. By its variety, this site makes a truly worthwhile bird sanctuary.

TOMMY THURBER MEMORIAL

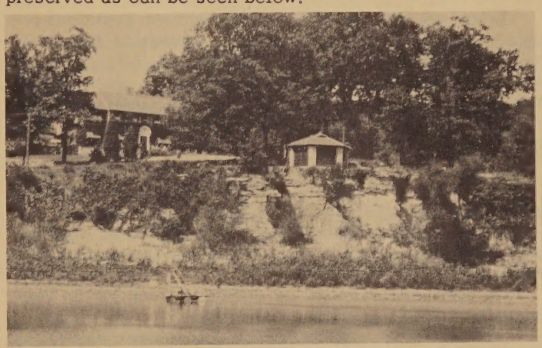
A gift by Mr. Francis B. Thurber of a 6-acre parcel of partially wooded swampland in Ossining, New York, has been approved by the Board of The Nature Conservancy. Arrangements have been made with a committee of the Saw Mill Audubon Society under the chairmanship of Miss Velma I. Cypher, for the management of this property. This wetland which is used by the children of the neighborhood for nature study also serves as a local birding area.

THREE SISTERS

The U. S. Forest Service is studying recommendations for natural areas to be established within the 53,000 acres that were excluded from the Three Sisters Wilderness Area in 1957. Hearings on reclassification of the Wilderness Area repeatedly showed the scientific values of the large area proposed for exclusion. The Friends of the Three Sisters, Inc., was subsequently invited to suggest sites that could be set aside as scientific areas. All of the excluded area, which is now slated for logging, lies in the "Old Cascades," a geologic zone not represented in the reduced Wilderness Area. It is characterized by many ecological differences that reflect the differing underlying rock and soils, not only in the composition of the forest cover but in the apparent survival of several islands of vegetation from an earlier, drier climate. A scientific committee was appointed by the Friends of the Three Sisters to study the area, with Dr. John E. Allen, a geologist, and Dr. Ruth E. Hopson, a biologist, both of Portland State College, as co-chairmen. Approximately 13,000 acres have been recommended for preservation in order to retain the key areas of scientific interest. The Nature Conservancy Governors recently endorsed these recommended natural areas and will work for their dedication.

CARSONHURST

The McCormack family estate has been given by deed of gift to the Nature Conservancy in memory of Samuel McCormack, Sr., as a contribution to the advancement of conservation goals and ideas. The grounds of this area will be open to Nature Conservancy members during the daylight hours. Mr. & Mrs. Jamerson McCormack, who currently live at Carsonhurst, and other heirs have made possible this generous gift because of their deep interest in conservation and the hope it offers toward a more enlightened future. "Old Man River" lends a natural setting for students, scholars and ordinary citizens in pursuit of a modern-day conservation ethic. Here, American history unfolds the story of life on a great river highway, a story told by mighty waters of the discovery and settlement of the golden west, and the use and abuse of the once bountiful natural resources of a continent. It is hoped that Carsonhurst will become a center for nature conservation by presenting an opportunity for people to learn about conservation through their participation in the activities that will develop on this site. Here the surging life of the river and the quiet of the river hills are preserved as can be seen below:



This beautiful acreage lies 13 miles from St. Louis and just 1 mile below Kimmswick, Missouri, on Highway 61-67. There are 55 acres with a main house, two smaller homes and two summer houses. The property extends from the highway to wooded hills overlooking and fronting on the Mississippi. The main physical character of the land is rolling and its predominantly oak-hickory woodland is Ozarkian in character. There is a diversity of natural habitat which offers a variety of Mississippi Valley flora and fauna.

Funds for the maintenance and development, and to cover a present $20,000 indebtedness on part of the acreage, are being sought by the Carsonhurst Committee headed by Dr. Nathan Kohn, Jr., 9827 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo.

"Green Spaces" Bill

The 103-to-8 vote by which the Maryland House of Delegates passed the Blair Lee bill to enable counties to protect their "green spaces" may well reflect a cross-section of public opinion. Residents of many cities are acquiring an acute distaste for the idea of suburbs extending uninterruptedly over the countryside. "When the year 2000 rolls around," Mr. Lee said in defending his bill, "our posterity will thank the Legislature of 1960 for passing it." We do not think the General Assembly will have to wait until 2000.

The bill would give local governments the right to buy or lease development rights from farmers and other landowners. Such authority is the more important since the threatened termination of the Capper-Cramton program for the acquisition of stream valleys in the area around Washington. But every growing metropolitan region needs to save some woods, stream valleys and open land for future parks, flood prevention and just plain breathing space. And there ought to be no illusion that the job will be done with the passage of this bill. The localities will need substantial funds to put it into effect.

The Washington Post

May this overwhelming majority presage a rapid rise in support for "green spaces" throughout the United States. --D. B. Stough

PARKS AND PEOPLE

Below are some of the very provocative questions recently studied by the new Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and Laurance S. Rockefeller, Chairman at their meeting, January 26th in Washington, D. C. The Commission's job is to evaluate our present recreational needs and forecast the needs for the year 1976, and the year 2000.

(1) Is the provision of outdoor recreation a governmental responsibility at all?

(2) How can aesthetic, spiritual, and other intangibles be compared and evaluated in resolving multiple use conflicts?

(3) How can over-use of recreational areas be prevented?

(4) Are there social factors in outdoor recreation which are likely to cause great variations in future demand for recreation?

These and other fundamental questions are surely worth considering, and they interpose questions of philosophy of government, which might as well be aired, and if possible, resolved so the Commission can request bi-partisan support for its forthcoming recommendations.

CONNECTICUT PRESERVE GROWS

The Frederic C. Walcott Preserve (Beckley Bog) Committee has undertaken the purchase of a tract of woodland including 2040 feet of frontage on the Beckley Pond Road. Donations are being sought for a new fund of $10,000 to complete land purchases.

THE NEW LOOK IN PEST CONTROL

Fire Ants in the South, Japanese beetles in Michigan, Gypsy moths in New York, Mosquitoes in the suburbs, and Cranberries all across the country are current newspaper headlines pointing to overuse or misuse of agricultural chemicals. The industries supplying agricultural chemicals and the U. S. Department of Agriculture will have a "test of their mettle" in seeing that drastic steps be taken to reduce or eliminate the high hazard of certain chemicals to wildlife and humans.

Biological control methods (more subtle in the ballyhoo of programming than chemical control programs) appear to offer improved ways of controlling "noxious" elements of our flora and fauna. In the last Congress, a bill (S. 1204) to establish a laboratory for basic research in biological control of the boll weevil and other insect pests, was introduced by Senator John Stennis of Mississippi.

In one current biological control test, entomologists have released approximately 20,000 beetles (Laricobius erichsonii) from the Baden area of West Germany in an area of high infestation of the balsam woolly aphid in Maine. The beetles, natural enemies of the balsam woolly aphid, are also being released in portions of North Carolina, Oregon, and Washington, in an attempt to establish them where there are presently severe losses due to the aphid. Early attempts to control the balsam woolly aphid by means of aerial spraying proved unsuccessful because the pesticide would not reach the trunk of the tree, where the aphid attaches itself and sucks the sap. Ground control methods are not economically feasible.

The U.S.D.A.'s Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service are being assisted by the British Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control. Some 200,000 tiny flies (Aphidoletes thompsoni), that also are predators of the aphids, have been donated by the Canadians. The Canadians have been highly successful in their control of the balsam woolly aphid with both the beetles and the flies.

NATURE RESERVES IN ONTARIO

In December 1958 the Federation of Ontario Naturalists submitted to the Government "An Outline of a Basis for a Parks Policy for Ontario". Besides outlining suggestions for a provincial policy on parks, this document stressed the need for a policy on the establishment and administration of nature reserves. At the present time no legislation exists in Ontario for setting up nature reserves as has been done in Britain through the Nature Conservancy. Early this year, however, the Wilderness Areas Act, sponsored by the Honourable J. W. Spooner, Minister of Lands and Forests, was passed which now gives the Government the power to acquire land for such purposes. This is a big step forward.

Although it is premature to say definitely that the Government will establish a system of nature reserves in Ontario, very serious consideration has been given to the idea. Only a short time ago, at a meeting with the Minister of Lands and Forests, the "Ontario Naturalists" were asked to compile a list of those areas in Ontario which in their view merit preservation as nature reserves. A number of groups including the "Federation", the Conservation Council of Ontario and the Quetico Foundation have presented their views on nature reserves and parks policy to the Advisory Committee to the Minister.

SECONDARY SUCCESSION AND NATURAL AREAS

With more and more areas being offered for preservation the problem will frequently arise as to whether an area that has been cut over, burned, or even farmed, has any value as a natural area. This will not always be easy to decide, but in addition to their obvious use as "nature areas for schools" at least one other factor deserves careful attention.

This factor is what is known or ascertainable of the ecological history of the area. I suppose that every inquisitive naturalist has repeatedly run up against such questions in his work as: how long ago was this area cleared? was it farmed? was it pastured? when was it abandoned? has it been frequently burned? how long ago was it logged? Was it logged selectively? if so, what trees were cut? has there been tree planting? has there been trapping? and many others. It is quite probable that we will be getting more and more offers of lands that present nothing distinctive in the way of natural vegetation. Such areas seemingly offer nothing but mosaics of secondary successions with vegetation badly beaten up by poor land use. But if it is possible to document their history, some or all of the above questions can be definitely answered. Such an area might be fully as valuable an outdoor ecological laboratory as any bog or piece of old-growth woods.

We strongly recommend that these matters of history be made a part of any study that aims at deciding whether any area is worthy of preservation.

(F.R. Fosberg--Ecological Studies Committee)

MORE HAWAIIAN EXOTICS

Nature Conservancy members have evidenced concern over the official action of the new State of Hawaii in introducing pronghorned antelope. In late December some 60 antelope were released on the Island of Lanai in the Hawaiian Chain in what wildlife officials in a wishywashy manner described as "apparently suitable habitat."

The delicate balance of the existing flora and fauna in island communities is well known, and the disastrous results of well-meaning but ecologically stupid exotic introductions is part of elementary science teaching of even our grade school youngsters. The scientific literature is replete with examples of the destructiveness of exotic species on island landscapes. Lowell Summer, National Park Service biologist, recently directed our attention to the battle to save the balance of nature on Santa Barbara Island in the Channel Island National Monument off the California coast. A New England Red strain of rabbits was introduced during World War II with disastrous results to the vegetation.

IUCN TO MEET IN POLAND

Nature Conservancy members who had been concerned over the IUCN Bulletin's failure to appear in our mailings will no doubt be glad to see the enclosed copy--one from a large shipment of materials just arrived from Belgium.

The coming meetings of the Seventh General Assembly and technical sessions of the International Union will be held at Warsaw, Poland, June 14-24, 1960. The Nature Conservancy is hoping to have some delegates and if you are planning to attend and would be willing to represent our members, please contact our Washington office.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT BOARD MEETINGS

Approved an operating budget for the Northern California Coast Range and made provision for operating expenses and part of the western office expenses to be charged as project costs.

Approved a service charge of 5% of annual income from certain special endowment funds in order to help defray cost of servicing the accounts.

Approved a new letterhead with an oak leaf design for printed materials.

Considered the possibility of accepting the gift of a valuable natural area in Canada, which in turn involved discussions of legal questions and the possibility of encouraging a Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Discussed financial matters such as the installation of a new bookkeeping system and methods of handling and investing funds.

Approved a system of coding Nature Conservancy projects.

Approved a revision of the dues contribution envelope.

Authorized a partition suit for the Pine Hills land, five-sixths of which is owned by the Conservancy.

Resolved that it is the general policy of the Board of Governors that members at large of the Board who have served two consecutive full terms should not be renominated for election in the year in which their terms expire.

Resolved that The Nature Conservancy arrange for the incorporation of subsidiaries in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for the purposes of being eligible for real property tax exemption.

Reaffirmed that loans to responsible independent organizations for natural area projects were appropriate.

Endorsed the recommendation of the Friends of The Three Sisters Wilderness Inc. to the U. S. Forest Service for the creation of natural areas in the vicinity of Three Sisters, Oregon.

Recommended that the certain Bureau of Land Management lands containing important grassland features be transferred to the Craters of the Moon National Monument, Idaho.

Approved Stillwater, Oklahoma, for next Annual Meeting of the Nature Conservancy. Meeting will as usual be in conjunction with that of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, with Dr. Adolf Stebler serving as local representative and program chairman.

Set the date of the next Board meeting tentatively for April 30th.

(The above actions approved by the Board of Governors on November 14, 1959, and January 23, 1960.)

NOTES OF INTEREST

A committee of Nature Conservancy members under the chairmanship of JAMES M. CUMBY and in association with the Dallas Audubon Society, have obtained an option on an important plant and animal habitat--the cedar breaks--in Dallas, Texas. In early March, Nature Conservancy's President, JAMES B. ROSS, will visit the area which is a breeding area for the rare golden-cheeked warbler and discuss the possibilities of The Nature Conservancy sponsorship of this important natural area.

Interest in the New England states continues to grow with the formation of a Vermont Chapter under the leadership of DR. JAMES MARVIN, botanist at the University of Vermont.

Indiana Nature Conservancy members held their chapter organization meeting at Indianapolis on February 20th and elected Lyton K. Caldwell, Chairman; Mrs. Doris H. Lytle, Secretary; and Clarence Goodnight, Treasurer.

An enthusiastic group of Nature Conservancy members in Glastonbury, Connecticut, under the leadership of MRS. NORMAN B. NEWTON, has been given authority to form a chapter. A hemlock ravine, a lake, and northern bogs are some of the potential natural area projects in this part of Connecticut.

Seven southeastern states (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee) are being searched by FRANCIS H. EYRE of the Society of American Foresters in a calculated effort to locate new forested natural areas. This survey, made possible under a grant from "Resources for the Future" has already uncovered some 100 candidate areas and promises to greatly expedite the work of the Society's Committee on Natural Areas. The Nature Conservancy commends this important work and hopes to be able to help in the preservation of some of the important tracts uncovered by the survey.

Priority ratings for land acquisition will be developed from a work list of 21 potential natural areas recently released by the Minnesota Chapter Board of Trustees.

Nature Conservancy representatives have met with the staff of the Atomic Energy Commission to recommend the establishment of a series of natural areas on AEC lands. One such area of seven acres of virgin Loblolly pine containing a sprinkling of southern hardwoods has already been established aside the Savannah River Atomic Reservation. There is a proposal submitted by DR. R. F. DAUBENMIRE for western ecologists to set aside a significant acreage of sagebrush-grassland inside the Hanford Atomic Reservation in the State of Washington.

Guatemala has taken the lead among the countries of Central America in conservation by the recent preservation of an important aquatic habitat--Lake Atitlan. The action was reported at the 1959 American Ornithologists Union meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. This conservation project also assures protection for all waterfowl on the lake including the Giant Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus gigas) which occurs nowhere else.

Sentiment is heard in the southern Great Plains for the establishment of a Santa Fe Trail National Shrine. Grassland enthusiasts should look up a paper "A Proposed Santa Fe Trail National Area," presented by DR. A. M. STEBLER to the Oklahoma Academy of Science and printed in their 1959 Proceedings, if they are interested in grassland preservation.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has begun a survey to locate, evaluate, and develop comprehensive plans for the preservation of small natural areas. This survey, made possible by a special grant of $25,000 for that purpose by the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, is the most intensive investigation of its kind ever undertaken. This survey coming on top of an already ambitious acquisition program gives the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy an unchallenged lead in regional natural area preservation efforts.

You will find with this newsletter a reprint of an article which appeared in the January 1960 Reader's Digest --put it in your inside coat pocket or handbag and pass it on to a friend.

We will have a report in the next News of the impact of this article, of new members, of our job in answering over 900 letters, and of the many areas readers asked that we assist in preserving.

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums". Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. They provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950 the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy; incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 3,000. It operates through a series of chapters, of which fourteen have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase, 28 nature preserves in ten states, having an area of some 6,400 acres. These range in size from one acre to 3,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of additional natural areas in five additional states, the total area of which is about 10,000 acres.

The members of The Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of $5 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of $200 or more to life membership, and one of $1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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